



The *Blurb*



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

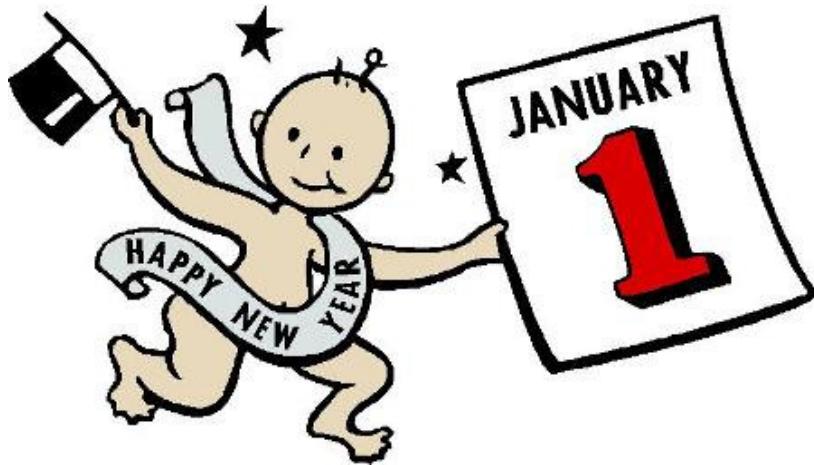
61 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2010

Volume 60 Number 1

www.phil-mont.org

January 2010

Happy 2010!



Auction Fest returns on January 13th at the general membership meeting

Sadly, Maripat Pressler - XYL of Gene Pressler, W3ZXV- passed away last month. A memorial service was held on Saturday the 19th of December at 11:00 AM. at the First Presbyterian Church of Ambler, 4 S. Ridge Avenue in Ambler, PA.

The Blurb is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. *Copying and quoting* is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs.

Requests should be sent to the Editor.

Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.

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Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH

Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.

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KB2ERL (10)
N3MT (10)
W3STW (10)
WA3KIO (11)
W3AOK (11)
N3XKE (11)
WU3I (A)

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For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: WB3KOJ@comcast.net

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net** at 0930L on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net** at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net** at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB
- **ARES** at 2100L on the W3QV repeater

Committees

Archives: NG3P

Audit: NS3K

Awards: open

Blurb folding: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH

Directory: WB3KOJ

DX: N3MT
Emerg. Coor: K3HWE
Field Day: KE3QB
Internet: K3XS
Membership: N3XKE
Net Control: KB3IV
Publicity: W3RM

Program: Club VP
Public Service: KE3QB
Refreshments: W3AOK
Repeater: W3AOK
Skywarn: WX3PHI
Sunshine: N3GLU

TVI: W3VVS
VE Program: NS3K
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
Welcome: N3UBY
Youth: N3MT

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128

Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmcclloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Reach us on EchoLink through WU3I-L

W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS

The Officers

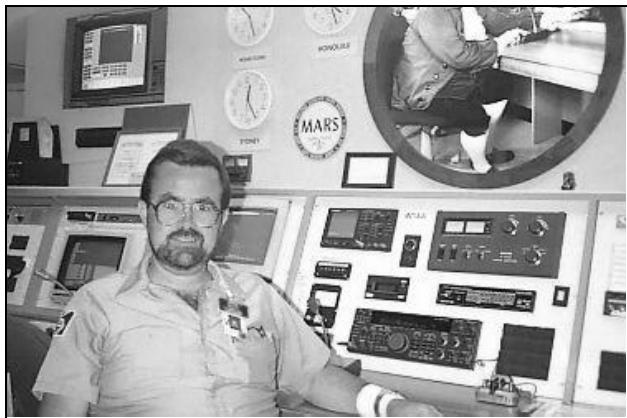
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Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez...

Here we are 12 days to Christmas and all is well in the waning days of my administration. The 14th annual Auction Fest is coming up next month and I hope to see you there. Our new PREZ will be guiding us next year. Please make sure you keep your auto maintained and keep emergency supplies stocked, it's that time of the year when you never know when the weather will blow up on us and we are a MOBILE RADIO CLUB. Now just because I am not president does not mean you won't be hearing from me. I will be all over the events of this fine organization as usual and hope to see you at the events of the club.

Thanks

de Steve, WU3I



***The next VE session is on Thursday,
January 28th at 7 pm.***

Many thanks to our VE team!



January Birthdays

- 2nd Marlene Spangler (XYL W3DSS)
- 3rd Jon Verlin - K3VU
- 5th Dorene Weiner (XYL WX3PHI)
- 15th Denise Burstein - KB3ANO
- Karen Lenczynski (XYL KA3EIP)
- 22nd Joe Gromley Jr. - N3UGI
- 26th Jennifer Bishop (XYL KB3QMT)
- 30th Bill Kane - N3OOL

Membership Stats

At press time PMRC had:

- 90 Full Paid Members
- 9 Family Members
- 4 Youth Members
- 2 Honorary Members
- 0 Pending Members

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Your 2010 Dues Invoice/Directory Information Sheet will be sent to you in a separate mailing. Please verify the information and return it with your dues & optional PMRC SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION to: DICK MOLL P.O. BOX 88, ABINGTON, PA 19001-0088. Your early reply will save the club additional expenses and will speed-up the publishing of the 2010 PMRC Directory.

From the Secretary ...**PMRC BoD Meeting Minutes 12/02/2009**

Steve, WU3I, opened the meeting at 2012 hours. Attending the meeting were Bob KB2ERL; Ed, KB3IV; Fred, WA3KIO; Al, W3STW and Gene, N3XKE.

Our Treasurer Dick, W3RM, gave Steve his report, signaling that the Club's funds are in order. The report identified a couple of donations to the Club's scholarship fund and that Dick would love to hear from you. In addition, stay tuned for news regarding your 2010 dues.

The December 2009 program will feature stories from the membership and good food to munch on as they listen. Bring a couple of those DX QSL cards you treasure, a picture, your station log and have fun as we enjoy ourselves.

Ed KB3IV, Net Control Chairman, reviewed with the BoD the changes he is proposing to the Sunday Net Control Preamble. Once incorporated, the changes should make better use of time spent conducting the HF nets and maximize time between NCS assignments

Ed has reviewed the Club's web site, identified problems and proposed changes needed to bring the web page up to date. The BoD and the Membership extends a hearty round of kudos to Ed for his attention to that detail.

A motion to accept a suggestion from our Membership Chairman Gene, N3XKE, to auction off extra 60th anniversary coffee mugs at the Club's January 2010 Auctionfest was accepted by the BoD, proceeds to go to the scholarship fund.

Steve, once again, gave thanks to the Club Members that helped make the 60th anniversary luncheon a successful event. Fred, WA3KIO, Club Director, relays acknowledgement of and thanks from radio station WRDV for the Club's participation in their year 2009 Fund Drive.

PMRC General Meeting Minutes 12/09/2009

Many thanks to the Club members that put together a delicious refreshment table that included potato chips, pepperoni, ham and cheese, cheese steak, broccoli and cheese, sandwiches, oreganata tomato pie, chocolate cake and plenty of 7 up, coca, and Pepsi cola, coffee and tea to wash it down. Again "thank you" to the team that purchased the refreshments and set up the table.

Club Treasurer, Dick W3RM, reported that all is in order and reminds us that he is accepting 2010 scholarship donations. Dick, also the Nominating Committee Chairman, announced an uncontested ballot to the membership listing the Officers and Directors up for election. Dick asked if anyone attending the meeting wanted his or her name placed on the ballot. Hearing no reply, Al, W3STW and Club Secretary, cast the vote needed to elect the candidates. Officers for 2010 are: President, Ed, KB3IV; Vice President, Eric, N3QV; Secretary, Jen, KB3MIV; Treasurer, Dick, W3RM. Starting two year terms as Directors are Bill, W3AOK; Fred WA3KIO; Gene, N3XKE. Appointed for one year were Al, W3STW (finishing up the remaining term of new president Ed, KB3IV) and outgoing President Steve, WU3I (new president's appointed director).

Ed reports there is a new schedule and preamble (for the way the 10 and 75 meter nets are conducted) for Club members operating as Sunday morning net control operators.

A couple of reminders: Jim, N3SK, and VE Chairman gave the remaining test schedule, Blurb Editor Rick, ND3B, says he's looking for additional articles, please submit by the 20th of December and do not forget to fill out an information profile for items you're selling at the January 13th 2010 Club's auctionfest

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2025 hours, and we returned to putting the finishing touches on the refreshments.

de Al, W3STW

Many thanks to Al for his service as the club secretary! Well done OM!

Tips for Yaesu owners

How many times have you been listening to the repeater and heard beep-beep-beep and then nothing? Well it's probably the owner of a Yaesu radio with the WIRES function accidentally turned on. This is a feature that hardly anyone in the USA uses. It is very popular in Japan. Here are instructions to disable WIRES in the FT-60 HT and the FT-8800/FT8900 mobile unit.

I will have an article in next month's Blurb for the owners of the FT-7800.

The Yaesu WIRES(Wide-coverage Internet Repeater Enhancement System) proprietary Internet Connection feature operates by transmitting a short (~ 0.1 second) DTMF (Dual Tone Multi Frequency) tone burst each time the Push-to-Talk button is pressed. Each time the WIRES DTMF tone is transmitted, the repeater mutes for several seconds and the first few words of the user's transmission are lost. The WIRES function is turned ON or OFF by momentary pressing the **0** key on a FT-60 handheld or left **VOL** knob on a FT-8800 or 8900 mobile radio. The WIRES function can be disabled so that it can not accidentally be turned on using the following steps:

FT-60 – See manual page 49

1. Press the **F/M** key then immediately press the **0** key to enter the menu mode.
2. Rotate the **Dial** knob to menu 23 – **INT MR**.
3. Press the **F/M** key then rotate the **Dial** knob to select a memory (**d1** through **d9**) that is empty, i.e. it contains **□□□□□□** (six dots) = no tone.
4. Press the **F/M** key to store the setting.
5. Rotate the **Dial** knob to menu 21 – **I NET**.
6. Press the **F/M** key then rotate the **Dial** knob to select **INT.MEM**.
7. Press the **F/M** key to store the setting.
8. Press the **PTT** button to exit the menu mode.

To re-enable the WIRES mode, select **INT.COD** in menu 21.

FT-8800 / FT-8900 – See manual page 50 or 48

1. Press the **SET** key momentarily to enter the set mode.
2. Rotate the *Main* band **Dial** knob to select menu 15 – **DTMF W**.
3. Press the *Main* band **Dial** knob momentarily then rotate the *Main* band **Dial** knob to select a memory (**d1** through **d16**) that is empty, i.e. it contains **□□□□□□** (six dots) = no tone.
4. Press the *Main* band **Dial** knob momentarily to store the setting.
5. Rotate the *Main* band **Dial** knob to select menu 17 – **INET**.
6. Press the *Main* band **Dial** knob momentarily then rotate the *Main* band **Dial** knob to select **INT.MEM**.
7. Press the *Main* band **Dial** knob for $\frac{1}{2}$ second to store the setting and exit the menu mode.
8. Rotate the *Main* band **Dial** while pressing and holding the left **VOL** knob to select the same memory selected in step 3 above.

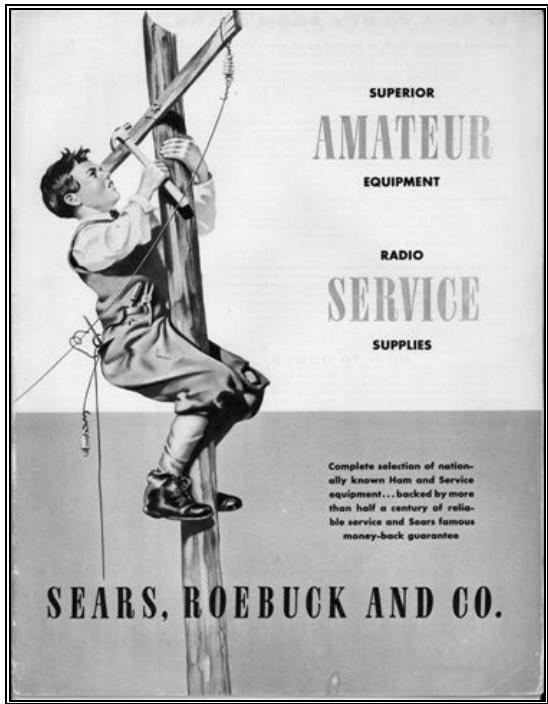
To re-enable the WIRES mode, select **INT.COD** in menu 17.

de Ed, KB3IV



Radio Stores ... 'N' More

by Bob Thomas, W3NE

**THE JOY OF CATALOGS**
Youthful reading and dreaming

We all are probably familiar with the catalogs of huge national discount houses HRO, AES and Texas Towers. These slick publications are essentially collections of print ads for products of Asian descent (and MFJ), with some comparison tables and brief descriptions of minor products. Bland sameness has not always existed. There was a time, before the Japanese captured commercial and amateur markets, when many national and regional U.S. suppliers of radio parts and equipment issued a new catalog about this time every year. Although they included many of the same products, they possessed individuality in product lines and the markets they addressed.

For a youngster or avid ham, arrival of a mail order catalog was met with instant excitement, followed by hours poring over every fascinating page of receivers, transmitters, test gear, and parts. Perusing their pages provided a foundation for understanding the physical nature of radio. Young

hams or SWL fans could never hope to afford commercial equipment on meager income from a paper route or gardening chores, but availability of inexpensive components and a few kits enabled them to construct satisfying substitutes. As time went on after the war, more elaborate kits were introduced that could be assembled by just about anybody for radio gear almost as good as exotic commercial products – but that's a story for a later time. Meanwhile, here are brief descriptions of a just a few prominent, and less prominent, catalogues "of the day".

The foremost national mail order supplier was **Allied Radio**, founded during the radio craze in 1921. My first Allied catalog was 178 pages of awesome inspiration, published in 1939 when I was twelve. Major products were broadcast receivers sold under the *Knight* house brand. Forty models were offered, from a 4-tube ac-dc set to an imposing 16-tube 3-band wood console model at \$83.50 (\$1253 in 2009 inflated currency). There were few factory-built transmitters and most were expensive. That was good reason for hams to build their own from what today would be an unimaginable variety of components. Amateur receivers were offered as commercial models and in kits for simple 1-tube battery sets up to those approaching commercial capabilities.

The 1950 Allied catalog introduced table and console television receivers with a 12.5" picture! Some ham receivers were double-superhets for improved image rejection. HiFi was becoming prominent as tape began to supplant disk recordings, and FM gained a foothold. Those new technologies competed with sales amateur radio had formerly enjoyed, leading to a decline in space allotted to ham components. By 1969 the Allied catalog had grown to 536 pages, including more audio equipment than ever, CB gear, and Drake ham equipment but, except for Hallicrafters, traditional amateur products were gone. Over 70 pages were devoted to Knightkits, a significant competitor to Heathkit. The end was near, however. In 1970 Tandy, owner of RadioShack, acquired Allied for its industrial products only, assigning radio equipment to RS.

Walter Ashe Radio Company began as a regional supplier of general radio parts and equipment in St. Louis, but their 1950 catalog is evidence of ambitious pursuit of hams. All major Collins AM gear was featured in two pages packed with technical details: 75A-1 revolutionary receiver, 32V-2 transmitter, two excitors, and the 30K-1, a 300W rack-mounted AM transmitter priced at \$1450, presently going on eBay for \$15,000! Full lines of National, RME, Hallicrafters and Hammarlund receivers, now coveted by collectors, were shown along with Stancor and Meissner equipment. They carried few non-amateur products in comparison to other mail order houses, but they offered all the parts a ham could desire, even QSL cards (what are those?). Ashe came into prominence about this time with a liberal trade-in policy that encouraged hams with aging or unwanted gear to upgrade to latest technology with a generous allowance for their old equipment. Their catalog reveals Walter Ashe as one of the great ham radio mail order dealers.

Lafayette Radio was the popular name for "Wholesale Radio Service Company", headquartered in New York with branches in Chicago and Atlanta. Before succumbing to the Japanese juggernaut, Lafayette, through its annual catalogs, was widely respected for a comprehensive stock of well known domestic manufacturers. Pre-war catalogs typically ran more than 200 pages, devoted primarily to parts for amateurs, test equipment, and ham communications gear. The "civilian" side of the catalogs featured over thirty-five pages of house-brand broadcast receivers, making them favorites for reading and dreaming on a snowy night.

Wholesale Radio Laboratories was founded in 1935 by Leo Meyerson, W0GFQ, with a \$1000 loan from his father. His company was principal supplier of quartz crystals to the U.S. war effort. After hostilities, the company name was changed to **World Radio Laboratories**. They stocked a complete lines of ham radio parts and equipment for sale through annual mail order catalogs and a retail store in Council Bluffs, Iowa. What really distinguished WRL was Leo's introduction of four moderately-priced transmitters manufactured in-house. They ranged in power levels from the 65-

watt *Globe Scout* CW transmitter up to the 500-watt *Globe King*, self-contained with VFO and modulator, in a 31" rack cabinet. Luscious! The 200-page 1957 catalog describes those rigs in great detail along with CW/AM/SSB equipment from Collins, Johnson, B&W, Eldico, Harvey-Wells, Millen, Elmac, and Central Electronics. Every receiver available at the time is covered in similar detail, making this one of the best amateur radio catalogs of them all.

What will come as a surprise to most readers is an amateur radio catalog issued pre-war by none other than **Sears, Roebuck and Company**! What did he say?! *Sears*??? Quite true. A 1940 Sears 48-page catalog of ham equipment described twelve transmitters from Hallicrafters, National and Stancor, and fourteen receivers manufactured by National, Hallicrafters, and Hammarlund. Test equipment, builder's parts, antenna supplies, and even transmitting tubes, were also sold by Sears through the mail. They even offered an easy installment plan for a small down payment and monthly payments spread over a year. It says something about the size of the amateur market in those days when Sears (and competitor Montgomery Ward to a lesser extent) would devote an entire catalog to our hobby. How times have changed! Take a look at the front cover of the 1940 Edition, reproduced here. Nothing could capture the exuberance of a young ham in those days better than that kid, barely clinging to the pole while nailing-on a crossarm, an insulator and feedline dangling from the pocket of his knickers – perhaps a long-lost ancestor of WU3I!

AuctionFest is coming! Gather up your stuff now for the big January event. **Please provide our auctioneer with a separate description of each item.** Forms will be available at the meeting but having them done ahead of time will keep things moving. Proceeds benefit the PMRC scholarship fund.

Speaking of the **scholarship fund** ... your help is needed, either in the form of usable equipment or good old fashioned cash. Donations are tax deductible so contact Dick, W3RM for info.

For Sale:**January at PMRC...**Dec 31st Straight Key Night

1st New Year's Day
 3rd Sunday - W3STW NCS
 6th Wed - Board of Directors meeting
 10th Sunday - N3OWM NCS
 13th Wed - General Membership Meeting
 & Auction Fest
 17th Sunday - KB3IV NCS
 18th Monday - Martin Luther King day
 24th Sunday - KB3SJV NCS
 28th Thursday VE session
 31st Sunday - N3QV NCS

Double Braided Dacron Rope now in stock. 3/16 diameter. Black in color. Will cut to requested length. High stretch resistance. Excellent strength: and abrasion resistance Also excellent resistance to acid, sunlight, mildew and chemicals. Shock load: Excellent. Does not float. Seal ends with heat. Breaking strength 630 Pounds. \$0.14 per foot

And ...

Rohn 6 40 foot tower with rotor shelf and fold over base. \$150.00
Mosley TA-33 \$150.00
Cushcraft A-3 \$150.00 (1 available)

Contact Steve, WU3I, for these items.

Please feel free to forward to other clubs of which you are a member.

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First Class Mail

641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115
 The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc

The **Blurb**